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(Marked-Up) Pending Claims After 1/16/2002 Amendment

GROUP 3600

164. (Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

[exactly] two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

165. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of United States denominations.

166. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

167. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the device is adapted to deliver and at least one output receptacle is adapted to receive denominated bills of more than one denomination.

168. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when the discriminating unit is not able to determine the denomination of a bill, a bill whose denomination is not determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

169. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein bills whose denomination are determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein bills whose denomination are not determined by the discriminating unit are directed to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, bills whose denomination are not determined by the discriminating unit being termed no call bills, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

170. The currency evaluation device of claim 169 wherein the second set of output receptacles includes a receptacle designated as a no call output receptacle.

171. The currency evaluation device of claim 170 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill has been delivered to the no call output receptacle.

172. The currency evaluation device of claim 171 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the no call output receptacle.

173. The currency evaluation device of claim 172 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill being the last bill transported to the no call output receptacle, wherein the criterion is the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill and wherein a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit is a flagged bill.

174. The currency evaluation device of claim 170 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt before a no call bill has been delivered to the no call output receptacle.

175. The currency evaluation device of claim 174 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport mechanism.

176. The currency evaluation device of claim 169 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after the no call bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

177. The currency evaluation device of claim 175 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in an output receptacle of the second set.

178. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein a bill failing to have its denomination determined by the discriminating unit is termed a no call bill, wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill, and wherein the device is adapted to deliver stranger bills to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and deliver no call bills to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

179. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discrimination unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the non-piece count related criterion is the discriminating unit determining that a bill is a stranger bill.

180. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discrimination unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect; a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

181. The currency evaluation device of claim 180 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein suspect bills are directed to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

182. The currency evaluation device of claim 179 wherein the second set of output receptacles includes a receptacle designated as a suspect output receptacle.

183. The currency evaluation device of claim 182 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt before a suspect bill has been delivered to the suspect output receptacle.

184. The currency evaluation device of claim 183 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport mechanism.

185. The currency evaluation device of claim 181 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a suspect bill has been delivered to the suspect output receptacle.

186. The currency evaluation device of claim 185 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the suspect output receptacle.

187. The currency evaluation device of claim 186 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to the suspect output receptacle, wherein the non-piece count criterion is a bill being suspect.

188. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the criterion is the discriminating unit determining the denomination of the bill, a bill failing to have its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a no call bill as the last bill in a second set of one or more of the output receptacles.

189. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discrimination unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the criterion is a bill being a stranger bill, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a stranger bill as the last bill in a second set of one or more of the output receptacles.

190. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the criterion is a bill being suspect, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a suspect bill as the last bill in a second set of one or more of the output receptacles.

191. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein a bill failing to have its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect.

192. The currency evaluation device of claim 191 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill is determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit, a bill determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit being termed a suspect bill.

193. The currency evaluation device of claim 192 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit and suspect bills are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein no call bills are delivered to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

194. The currency evaluation device of claim 191 wherein the second set of output receptacles consists of a single output receptacle.

195. The currency evaluation device of claim 193 wherein the discrimination unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the discriminating unit further is adapted to determine whether bills are stranger bills, and wherein stranger bills are delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

196. The currency evaluation device of claim 195 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill or a stranger bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

197. The currency evaluation device of claim 196 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill or the stranger bill being the last bill transported to an output receptacle of the second set.

198. The currency evaluation device of claim 195 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism not to halt after a no call bill or a stranger bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

199. The currency evaluation device of claim 198 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the first set.

200. The currency evaluation device of claim 191 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein no call bills are delivered to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

201. The currency evaluation device of claim 200 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

202. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

203. The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

204. A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

- an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;
- two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;
- a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;
- a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the detector being adapted to generate an output signal; and

a processor adapted to receive the output signal and programmed to count and denominate the bills and programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

205. The currency evaluation device of claim 204 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the processor is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of United States denominations.

206. The currency evaluation device of claim 204 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

207. The currency evaluation device of claim 204 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

208. The currency evaluation device of claim 204 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the processor is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

209. A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;
two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of a plurality of non-piece count related criteria; wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria, the at least one criteria being termed a halting criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill satisfying the halting criteria being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

210. The currency evaluation device of claim 209 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of United States denominations.

211. The currency evaluation device of claim 209 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

212. The currency evaluation device of claim 209 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

213. The currency evaluation device of claim 209 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.